

Rim Trail Domestic Water Improvement District Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 4, 2023

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Will Gegg
2. Roll was called - Chairman Will Regg (WR), Treasurer Ray Tanner (RT), Secretary John Tanner (JT), Parliamentarian Jeff Manley (JM) delayed, JT Driscoll (JTD) Vice Chairman, and a quorum was established.
Dan Utz (DU), District Water Operator, Steve Stevens (SS), District Manager, and Haley Stevens, Administration are in attendance
Public in attendance: Alyssa Ramirez, Russell Ramirez, Christine Webber, Roxanah
3. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings:
 - JTD motioned to approve meeting minutes for 10/19/23. JT seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - JT motioned to approve the meeting minutes for 12/14/23. JT seconded. The motion passed unanimously
 - JTD motioned to approve the meeting minutes for 2/29/24. RT seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Treasurer Report (RT): 100% of the District's WIFA-approved infrastructure improvements have been completed. The district spent \$225,000 of the \$270,000 of the funds provided by WIFA, leaving a balance of \$45,000 that has not been used. RT suggested that the District may be able to work with WIFA to use these leftover funds for other improvement projects like solar backup.
District Managers Report: SS provided a graph showing that our total well output has been 4,000 – 8,000 gallons per day. While this shows a lot of variability in output, the system is producing at a robust rate. He will continue to track and report output to the board at each meeting.
 - Discussion about the Ramirez property about payment of a bond. SS and Haley will search the District's archives and report back to the Ramirez.
 - There have been multiple instances of water bills being sent twice to residents. The matter has been addressed and no residents were overbilled.
 - While there are always leaks, there have been no significant infrastructure problems since the last District Managers Report.
5. Agenda Items
 - a. Replacement of Infrastructure Near Rim Trail and Beluzzi: The water system here has been a continual issue. The infrastructure is old and the increased traffic on Beluzzi is creating more stress. The Board and Water Operator agree that replacing this infrastructure is a priority. DU is to get 2 quotes to repair this infrastructure as soon as possible. JT emphasized that these quotes need to be provided to the Board for consideration before the next

- meeting but that we should not wait for the next time the Board convenes. As soon as DU has obtained these quotes, the Board intends to schedule a special meeting to review them. Once the Board understands the cost of these repairs, SS will explore the possibility of applying the leftover funds from the District's current WIFA grant to pay to replace the infrastructure under the intersection of Rim Trail and Beluzzi. WR pointed out that we will need to coordinate these repairs with Washington Park and anyone else who would be affected by the temporary road closure.
- b. Discuss Potential Growth We May Experience in Rim Trail: JTD expressed concern about the District's ability to provide water for the potential growth of Rim Trail. The Board and Public outlined several actions that could be taken to increase water production to accommodate growth. RT suggested that the District might enter a water-sharing agreement with a resident of the District who has a private well. Christine Webber suggested a focus on water conservation with things like rain-catching systems. Christine also suggested that the Board review the pricing structure to encourage conservation including the base rate charge. Roxanah suggested increased pricing for short-term rentals since they are a business expense to the owners of the rental units. WR pointed out that changes cannot be made until the annual rate meeting. JTD suggested that making the water treatment plant has the greatest potential to accommodate increased water demand. The Board tabled this since it would be addressed later in the meeting. RT suggested that the Board identify full-time residents, part-time residents, and short-term rentals so that water use could be studied. WR reminded the Board and Public that it is not in the purview of this Board to take any action intended to restrict the legal right of a landowner. RTWID is a water district and not an HOA. WG also reminded the Board and Public that the RTWID has taken a public stance that it is not in favor of any rezoning efforts that would increase density in Rim Trail.
- c. Consider RTWID's Next Infrastructure Project and possible WIFA Grant. JT stated that making the water treatment plant functional was second in importance only to replacing the infrastructure at the intersection of Rim Trail and Beluzzi. All Board members were in agreement. The Board requested that SS and DU work together to determine a solution. Once the Board has a project scope and cost estimate, it intends to apply for another WIFA grant. RT pointed out that, if SRP, were to assume control of our water system, any repairs we do to the treatment plant will belong to SRP. WR stated that the plant needed to become operational no matter who ultimately owns and operates it. No other infrastructure projects were considered. The Board considers the repair of the treatment plant to be urgent.

- d. Election, Members up for reelection in November WR, JT, JM. The deadline to submit an application to be a candidate on the ballot is in October 2024. At this time, JM intends to run to retain his seat and WR does not intend to run for re election.
 - e. Insurance Annual Renewal: Haley confirmed payment has been made and the Districts insurance policy has been renewed with no changes to coverage.
 - f. Scanned Records, storage of physical copies—Pump House or Water Treatment Facility. The paper files have nearly all been digitized and saved electronically by thumb drive and backed up in cloud storage. JT and JM questioned whether the Board needs to retain the paper documents. The decision was made to store them in a mouse proof container in the water treatment plant.
 - g. Solar for Well #4—RT New Quote, JM Solar credits/rebates available. There is no new information regarding the quote at this time. The Board will resume this matter in it's next meeting.
 - h. DU update on bond payment for meter at 483 N Rim Trail. SS and DU will research the RTWID's archive for information on the original bond payment. No additional information is available now.
 - i. Discuss Cowan Range Agreement with SRP: SS reported that SRP had been in communication with Whispering Pines water district. SRP wishes to manage the water and has made a proposal. Whispering Pines retained an attorney but SRP hasn't followed up in about 5 years. JTD stated that it would be more difficult for SRP to assume control of RTWID due to the fact that Rim Trail has agriculture water rights dating back to the original homestead. JT corrected JTD in that Rim Trail has agricultural water claims, not rights. RT shared that about 3 years ago SRP proposed that it assumes the management of Rim Trail's water. The proposal included that Rim Trail would pay for it's water allotment whether it was used or not. SRP would take over all of RTWID's equipment. RT also pointed out that Rim Trail has the longest water use history of any nearby community. JTD strongly suggested that RTWID not reengage with SRP at this time. The Board agreed that it would wait until SRP reengages with RTWID. RT pointed out that SRP owns the Cragan water flowing through the East Verde River, but RTWID has rights to the river water. As a possible solution, RTWID could move it's water intake upriver from the pump station ensuring that all of RTWID's water was from the river and, therefore, not under the management of SRP.
6. Call to the Public – there were no comments from the public
 7. Call to Staff and Board Members for non-agenda items, updates and recommendations for future meetings: JT requested a specific time frame to receive the quote from DU and SS regarding the infrastructure replacement on Rim Trail and

Beluzzi. He pointed out that the Board has been discussing this repair since October 2023. The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting as soon as the quotes are received.

8. Executive Session: none
9. Schedule Next Board Meeting. The next meeting will be scheduled electronically and communicated to the public.
10. Adjournment: JM made a motion to adjourn. WR seconded the motion.